



To: Board of Parks and Recreation
From: Mark Heintz – Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: January 20, 2026
Re: TIPS cooperative purchasing participation agreement

The Town participates in several cooperative purchasing agreements such as BuyBoard, Omnia Partners, and Sourcewell. There is another purchasing cooperative called TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) that we'd like to join. Participating in TIPS, along with the other organizations, gives us flexibility to help expedite purchasing in certain situations. Locally, other governmental organizations also are part of the TIPS purchasing cooperative including the School Town of Munster and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission.

This cooperative has an agreement already in place with Byrne & Jones Construction which specializes in sports courts construction such as tennis and pickleball courts. Agreeing to participate in TIPS gives the Town the flexibility to use the purchasing cooperative pricing but does not make any formal decision on any particular project. A decision on any specific project would be brought to the Board for consideration at a later date. Approval of participation in TIPS gives us another 'tool in the toolbox' for future projects. Joining this cooperative leverages the buying power of the group which should give us the best pricing for any future purchases made through that cooperative.

Recommendation:

Staff is recommending that you approve the attached interlocal agreement for the Town to join the TIPS interlocal purchasing cooperative as attached.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
Region 8 Education Service Center

PUBLIC ENTITY (TIPS MEMBER)

Control Number (TIPS will Assign)

and

Region 8 Education Service Center
Pittsburg, Texas

225 - 950
Region 8 Texas County-District Number

The Texas Education Code §8.002 permits Regional Education Service Centers, at the direction of the Commissioner of Education, to provide services to assist school districts, colleges and universities in improving student performance and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of school, college and university financial operations. Region 8 Education Service Center is an Education Service Center which is defined as a "political subdivision" in Texas Education Code 8.009 and falls under the definition of "Unit of State Government" in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code.¹ Pursuant to Section 791 of the Texas Government Code (The Interlocal Cooperation Act) to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local governments, Region 8 Education Service Center may enter into an interlocal agreement with any political subdivision or local government of this state or any other state to provide purchasing functions and services.²

Vision:

TIPS will continue to become the premier purchasing cooperative in North America through the qualifying and procurement of quality vendors and through serving all public entities and qualifying non-profits.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Agreement shall be to improve procurement process efficiencies and assist in achieving best value for the participating public entities through cooperative purchasing.

Duration:

This Agreement is effective immediately and shall be in effect for one (1) year and automatically renews for an additional year annually. The Agreement may be terminated without cause immediately if the public entity Member provides written notice of termination to Region 8 Education Service Center or if Region 8 Education Service Center provides the public entity Member Sixty (60) days prior written notice of termination.

Statement of Services to be Performed:

Region 8 Education Service Center, by this Agreement, agrees to provide cooperative purchasing services to the above-named public entity through a program known as The Interlocal Purchasing System ("TIPS") Program.

Role of the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative:

- Provide for the organizational structure of the program.
- Provide staff for efficient operation of the program.
- Promote marketing of the TIPS Program.
- Coordinate the Solicitation Process for all Vendor Awarded Contracts.
- Provide members with procedures for placing orders through TIPS PO System.

¹ Tex. Edu. Code Sec. 8.009; Tex. Gov. Code Sec. 2260.001.

² Tex. Gov. Code Chapter 791, The Interlocal Cooperation Act.

- Maintain filing system for Due Diligence Documentation.
- Collect fees from vendors as the method of financing this undertaking and supporting the operational costs of TIPS.

Role of the Public Entity:

- Commit to participate in the program by an authorized signature on membership forms.
- Designate and keep current a Primary Contact and Secondary Contact for entity.
- Commit to purchase products and services from TIPS Vendors when in the best interest of the entity.
- Submit Purchase Orders and/or Vendor Contracts through the TIPS PO System by emailing the pdf document to tipspo@tips-usa.com.
- Accept shipments of products ordered from Awarded Vendors.
- Process Payments to Awarded Vendors in a timely manner.
- Report all TIPS purchases to TIPS through TIPS authorized methods.
- Determine when a TIPS purchase is legal and appropriate under Federal, State, and Local law and policy before proceeding with a TIPS purchase.

General Provisions:

The Parties agree to comply fully with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in connection with the programs contemplated under this Agreement. This Agreement is subject to all applicable present and future valid laws governing such programs.

No joint agency or joint real property ownership is created by this Agreement.

This Agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of Texas and venue shall be in the county in which the administrative offices of RESC 8 are located which is Camp County, Texas.

This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the Parties hereto with respect to the matters covered by its terms, and it may not be modified in any manner without the express written consent of the Parties.

If any term(s) or provision(s) of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

The Parties to this Agreement expressly acknowledge and agree that all monies paid pursuant to this Agreement shall be paid from legally appropriated and budgeted available funds for the current fiscal year of each such entity.

Before any party may resort to litigation, any claims, disputes or other matters in question between the Parties to this Agreement shall be submitted to nonbinding mediation. The site of the mediation shall be in Camp County, Texas or a site mutually agreed by the parties. The selection of the mediator shall be mutually agreed. The cost of mediation shall be shared equally.

No Party to this Agreement waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of themselves, their directors, officers, employees, and agents as a result of its execution of this Agreement and performance of the functions and obligations described herein.

The Parties agree that the Public Entity TIPS Member is solely responsible for identifying when utilization of a TIPS Contract for procurement is legal and appropriate under Federal, State, and Local law and policy. TIPS

contracts are available for TIPS Member use when the TIPS Member determines that such a procurement is appropriate and legal. TIPS cannot and does not analyze TIPS Member procurements for legality. The Parties agree that TIPS shall not be responsible or liable for any claims, challenges, audit findings, legal holdings, or damages resulting from the TIPS Member's decision to utilize a TIPS Contract when it is not appropriate to do so under the laws and policies applicable to the purchase.

This Agreement may be negotiated and transmitted between the Parties by electronic means and the terms and conditions agreed to are binding upon the Parties.

Authorization:

Region 8 Education Service Center and The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Program have entered into an Agreement to provide cooperative purchasing opportunities to entities as outlined above through awarded vendor agreements procured by public solicitation in accordance with applicable Texas statutes.

This Interlocal Agreement process was approved by the governing boards of the respective parties at meetings that were posted and held in accordance with the respective state.

The individuals signing below are authorized to do so by the respective parties to this Agreement.

Membership Entity-

Region 8 Education Service Center

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Title: _____

Date _____

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Title: Executive Director, Texas Region 8 ESC

Date _____

Public Entity Contact Information

Primary Purchasing Person's Name

Primary Person's Email Address

Entity Address

City

State

Zip

Secondary Person's Name

Secondary Person's Email Address

Entity Phone Number

Entity Fax Number